

## EDITORIALS.

This paper is on file at the American Mining Congress, Denver, Colorado.

### THE LUKE AGENCY.

Editorial Times.

It looks as if the law-making power were giving more attention and the law-enforcing power a little less attention than the situation actually requires. It does not look altogether dignified for a state to expend so much of its force upon so insignificant a subject, which in turn is correspondingly dignified beyond proper proportions. If any ordinary person violates the law the remedy is always at hand ready made, requiring but the aggressive action of those who are chosen for that purpose to give the violator the needed lesson; but when it comes to a tussle with the Luke agency there is a failure right along and the legislature is invariably appealed to for a remedy to fit the case. This is a commentary that is not pleasing to the good citizen who gives it thoughtful attention.

The predecessor of the present county attorney for Salt Lake County had as many as a dozen criminal complaints on file at one time against the notorious collection concern, and not one of them was prosecuted to a conclusion. Others before him did better and had the culprit headed for jail several times, from which he was rescued through the influence of a presumptively reputable mercantile concern; and the present prosecuting official has at least one such case on his hands, which seems to be sleeping the usual Rip Van Winkle sleep. This is all wrong. Experience as well as common sense show conclusively that with the vigorous enforcement of the laws they will be found ample for all emergencies.

At this writing some half dozen one branch and likely to become laws. What good will they do if they shall be treated as others have been? They can't enforce themselves, and the record shows that the celebrated defendant does not stand in awe of any of them; he goes ahead in his own way, defying statutes, courts and individuals alike, and in the very infrequent case of a "show down" manages to escape by some hook or crook usually suggestive of a loosening up of ill-gotten money. Not only this, but he has the effrontery to occupy large spaces in easily subsidized sheets setting forth his views in justification of his career, saying, among other things, that no one who does not honestly owe has ever been compelled to pay through his methods—a brazen, unmitigated lie in itself. Those who never owed, or having owed have paid, have been sued improperly and without due process, and been compelled to go to serious trouble and expense in order to save themselves from unjust and outrageous judgments which, being obtained, mean further annoyance and expense, to avoid which the victim frequently elects to pay as the lesser of two evils, and this is one of the prime factors in the Luke collection mechanism. It is a bad thing and ought to be stamped out. Those who owe and are able to pay ought to be compelled to do so if they won't on any other terms; but even they have a right to the protection of the laws.

### NO PANIC YET.

Photo Courtesy.

After gold and silver, the metals of which the great west generally, and Utah particularly, look for commercial activity and substantial progress, are copper and lead. The increase in the production of all these is steady, with a constantly rising ratio of advance. It does look as if those who have for some years been predicting a great panic would have to keep on revising their conclusions, each time keeping the calamitous result far enough off to keep their reputations as prophets from becoming confluent with that of calamity howlers. It is not necessary to be overly optimistic to reach the comforting side of the proposition; one has but to refer to the facts as recorded, the cold figures as developed, to obtain full satisfaction as to the financial situation. Just look. The results for last year not being completely tabulated, but consider the showing for the immediately previous period: The production of copper increased from \$12,537,267 pounds, valued at \$105,629,845, in 1904, to 901,907,843 pounds, valued at \$139,795,716, in 1905, an increase of 89,370,576 pounds in quantity and of \$34,165,871 in value. The production of lead in 1905 was 302,000 short tons, as against 307,000 short tons in 1904 and 282,000 short tons in 1903. The value of the production in 1905 was \$28,690,000, as compared with \$28,402,000 in 1904, and with \$23,320,000 in 1903. While lead suffered a small decline as compared with the immediately previous year, it gained enough over 1903 to make the general trend upward, and the figures for last year will make this still more pronounced.

No, indeed; there will be no panic this year, and it would be hard to find the materials to construct one for next year. You might as well say that a horse or cow would starve with their barns full of hay or corn as to figure out a financial congestion with money metals so very abundant and so certainly increasing.

## Local & News Items

With its new machinery of latest pattern working perfectly; with over 6,000 tons of ore on hand to start with, and with an ample supply of fuel, both coal and coke, the Utah Smelting company has put its new smelter at Ogden into commission. The enterprise starts active work under favorable circumstances and with flattering prospects. Located at the junction of four large lines of railroad,

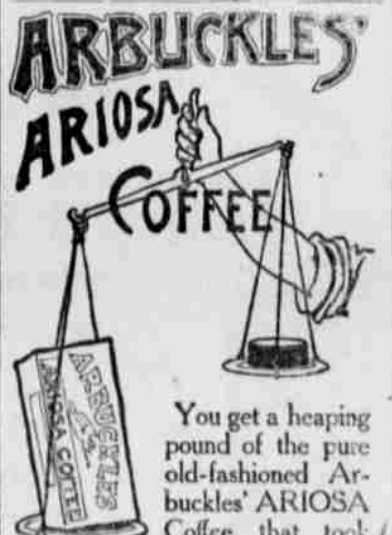
maranted advantageous freight rates, it is in a position to secure patronage not only from the state in which it is situated, but also from Wyoming, Nevada, Idaho and Montana. From several points in the last named states much rich rock has been received for treatment. Eleven cars from Goldfield, Nevada, were received for last week, the metallic contents of which are estimated to be \$200,000 in value. In addition some very high grade copper rock has been received, those shipping it to Ogden assuring the smelter people that more will soon follow. The new smelter is equipped in such a way as to handle everything in the speediest manner possible, and indications point to its soon becoming one of the leading institutions of its kind in the intermountain country.

The Cactus mine, in popular parlance, is going some. Lawrence Townsend of the Newhouse company has just come from the mine with the information that the body of high grade ore encountered a couple of weeks ago on the sixth level has now been opened in the fourth level. This gives at least 200 feet of backs on a body of ore at least 60 feet wide—no one knows how much bigger it is—which averages better than 15 per cent copper. Two carloads of the ore have been shipped which went 23 per cent copper—5 per cent higher than the average of the concentrates which have ordinarily been turned out of the Cactus mill.

W. E. Page, the mining engineer, in company with J. M. Reynolds, was down visiting the properties of the new Hecla company, in Beaver county. As stated the other day, this company of local operators has bought outright the well known Harris properties near the famous Cave mine. Mr. Page went down in the interests of some of the incorporators of the company who had had no opportunity to inspect the proposition before going in, and his report will set their fears, if they had any, at rest.

Manager J. A. Ingols of the Majestic Copper company reports very satisfactory conditions at the mines of the above named corporation, particularly the O. K. and Harrington-Hickory mines. Ore thrown on to the dump by a former management is now being shipped at a profit.

The groundhog made good this year. Now let's see how near March comes to maintaining its legendary reputation.



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